

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 128240
ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: EA/ROC: BLEVIN:EDD

APPROVED BY: EA/ROC: BLEVIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 128240

LIMDIS/NOFORN

FOLLOWING REPEAT TAIPEI 2937 ACTION SESECSTATE INFO CINCPAC MAY 20.

QUOTE S E C R E T TAIPEI 2937

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, CH

SUBJECT: REPORTED GROC ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRING AT PRC AIRCRAFT IN
VICINITY OF MATSU

1. THE EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED THAT ADMIRAL SOONG, CHIEF OF GS,
MND, HAS INFORMED COMUSTDC BY LETTER DATED MAY 9 (NOT RECEIVED
UNTIL MAY 18) THAT ON APRIL 30, A FLIGHT OF FOUR PRC FIGHTER
AIRCRAFT FLYING AT 20,000 FEET AND 450 NM/PER HOUR "INTRUDED INTO
THE AIRSPACE OF TUNGCHU AND HSICHU OF OUR MATSU AREA".
SOONG FURTHER ADVISED THAT "THE INTRUDING AIRCRAFT THEN ESCAPED UPON
THE FIRING OF OUR ADA UNITS". SOONG INTERPRETS INCIDENT AS MANI-
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FESTING PRC INTENT "TO MAKE PROVOCATIONS"; AND THAT "THIS PROVOCATIVE
ACT MIGHT LEAD TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE AND ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR
MUTUAL DEFENSE POSTURE". SOONG ASKS COMUSTDC TO "TAKE APPROPRIATE
ACTIONS IN ORDER TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF THE STRAINED
SITUATION IN THE TAIWAN STRAITS".

2. COMUSTDC HAS REPORTED RECEIPT OF SOONG'S LETTER TO CINCPAC

AND NOTES THAT THIS IS FIRST INDICATION THAT WE HAVE HAD OF FIRING OF ADA UNITS AT PRC AIRCRAFT. COMUSTDC STATES THAT HE HAS NO DOUBT THE GROC MILITARY DOING EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO AVOID AN INCIDENT, BUT ARE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER RECENT PRC AIR BUILDUP OPPOSITE TAIWAN AND RECENT INCURSIONS INTO STRAIT.

3. THERE ARE MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS RELATING TO ALLEGED "INCIDENT" AND REPORTED ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRING. EMBASSY HAS INITIATED THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AND WILL REPORT FINDINGS TO DEPARTMENT SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY "FALL OUT" RESULTING FROM INCIDENT IF IN FACT IT DID TAKE PLACE AS DESCRIBED; WE CAN IDENTIFY NO PRC SPECIFIC REACTION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF IT.

UNGER UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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